

# What will drive the future of tropical Australia?



## **FUTURE OPTIONS FOR NORTH AUSTRALIA**

**Stephen Garnett • John Woinarski • Rolf Gerritsen • Gordon Duff**

The authors of this book identify ten major drivers that will shape the north: population, social function, property rights, Commonwealth policy, the global economy, resource use, oil futures, climate change, invasive organisms and technological innovation. For each they identify the risks, uncertainties and the extent to which they can be controlled by the people of the north. Then they describe seven possible futures: chronic underdevelopment, degeneration, a northern ricebowl, an industrial powerhouse, environment first, an Indigenous community Utopia and dynamic urbanization. These are not predictions. They are scenarios to make readers think and realize that the decisions being made today will have a profound influence in the future. Our generation has the opportunity and frightening responsibility to make those choices.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Stephen Garnett has had experience in many different sectors – Indigenous, pastoral, government and academic – in his 30 years in tropical Australia. John Woinarski is the doyen of environmental scientists in the north with a deep understanding of the evolutionary processes that have shaped, and will shape, our region. Rolf Gerritsen is an economist with an independent view of trends in tropical economies and Gordon Duff, who once headed the Tropical Savannas CRC, has had decades of experience bringing diverse groups together in a common purpose to take the north forward towards a more harmonious future.

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Charles Darwin University, February 28th 2008**